



**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Contact:** Amanda Wurst  
614 644-0957/614 832-7512  
[Amanda.Wurst@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:Amanda.Wurst@governor.ohio.gov)

## **Judicial Panel Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy on Cleveland Municipal Court**

**Columbus, Ohio**-The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel is currently accepting applications to fill a vacant seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court.

The seat has been vacant since Judge Larry Jones was elected to the Eighth District Court, effective February 10.

Applicants for the Cleveland Municipal Court position must be a resident and registered elector of the City of Cleveland or the Village of Bratenahl and not yet 70 years old on the day they begin their duties, as dictated by Ohio law. In addition, they must be admitted to practice law in Ohio and have maintained their legal license for six years prior to assuming the judicial post or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the United States.

To continue service in the position, the appointee must run in the November 2009 municipal general election.

In the case of all judicial vacancies, applicants must follow the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel to ensure their eligibility for appointment.

Applications must be submitted directly to the judicial panel and will then be distributed to the at-large and regional panel members. Additional details about OJARP and the application process can be found on the OJARP Web site at [www.ojarp.org](http://www.ojarp.org).

All materials submitted by applicants for a judicial vacancy will be considered public record under Ohio law. Applicant communication with panel members must be directed to the entire panel; all attempts to contact or influence a panel member are prohibited. Applicant questions and concerns should be addressed to Kent Markus or Jeff Ruppert in the Governor's Office at (614) 466-3555.

Applications for the City of Cleveland Municipal Court appointment must be received by 5 p.m. March 19. The application timeframe has been shortened due to the timing of the vacancy.

Candidates must be available to interview in person on March 26 in Columbus. Individual candidate times and interview locations will be determined at a later date.

Governor Strickland has selected the following individuals to serve on the regional panel for the current City of Cleveland vacancy:

David B. Dawson – deputy director, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Rose Rodriguez Bardwell – executive director, Spanish American Committee

Robert J. Triozzi – director, City of Cleveland Department of Law

Gerome E. Dowling – Chief of the Criminal Division, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office

Tony Charles – director, CTPartners

Jim Astorino – president, Northern Ohio Fire Fighters

At-large panel members:

James Ray (panel chair)- retired judge, Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

John Kulewicz – attorney, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

Derric D. McDonald – patrol officer, Dayton Police Department

Meg Flack – board member of the Ohio League of Women Voters

Joy Malek Oldfield – partner at Hill Hardman Oldfield, LLC, in Akron